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NORTH CAROLINA



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No. 111

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 5, 1952

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

LARGE STOCKS OF LEAF TOBACCO ON HAND APRIL 1

Total Stocks Up 302 Million Pounds
Flue-cured Leaf Stocks Highest of Record

Inventories of all types of leaf tobacco reported on hand by dealers and manufacturers in the United States and Puerto Rico totaled 4,244 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) as of April 1, 1952 - an increase of 302 million pounds compared with a year ago. The 1951 crop of around 2,355 million pounds including 27.5 million pounds for Puerto Rico was in stocks by April 1 with the exception of around 75 million pounds, consisting mainly of Maryland, Pennsylvania Seedleaf and Puerto Rican tobacco.

Stocks as of April 1 included about 444 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) of leaf under Government

loans. This consisted of approximately 188 million pounds of flue-cured; 141 million of Burley; 7.9 million of Maryland; 54.4 million of fire-cured; 31.1 million of Dark air-cured; and 22.0 million of cigar leaf types.

For the southern types flue-cured stocks totaled 1,990 million pounds up 11 percent and the highest of record for April 1, Burley 1,344 million up 8 percent and Maryland 51.5 million up 10 percent compared with the previous April 1. Fire-cured and Dark air-cured tobacco stocks at 173 million and 86.8 million pounds respectively were slightly below the levels of a year earlier. Dealers and manufacturers as of April 1 reported 400 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) of all types of domestic leaf, including Puerto Rican about the same over-all total as on hand a year earlier.

POTATO AND SNAP BEAN HARVEST NOW UNDER WAY

Light harvest of the commercial early Irish potato crop in North Carolina got under way during the last week of May. Volume movement is expected from the Carteret and Mt. Olive areas the week of June 2. In the other areas digging will begin during the week of June 2, becoming heavy during the week of June 9.

The crop is about 2 weeks later than normal this year and harvest is expected to extend over a longer period than usual.

Stands are below normal in all areas and badly broken in the Bethel and Mt. Olive sections. Soil moisture supplies are generally adequate though more rains are needed for proper sizing. The crop generally is in good condition and free of insects and disease.

(Continued on Page 3)

FOREIGN TRAINEES GET FIRST HAND FACTS ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA

Under a cooperative arrangement between the U. S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Land-Grant Colleges selected persons or trainees from several foreign countries are spending about one year in various parts of the United States. North Carolina is one of the states selected for this work. While here the trainees will: (1) receive instruction in the methods and procedures used by our Federal-State Crop Reporting Service; (2) receive instruction in agricultural sampling, survey design, agricultural economics and English at North Carolina State College; and (3) observe and become generally familiar with the various agricultural areas and farming practices in North Carolina.

Most of the trainees now stationed in Raleigh are shown in the picture on the right which was taken on the farm of Mr. Hawley Poole near West End. Mr. Poole is in the center of the group explaining the major practices used in producing peaches in the Sandhills

FOREIGN TRAINEES VISIT SANDHILLS AREA



N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 5 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased 5 points during the month ended May 15, 1952. The current "All Farm Products" index of 291 compares with an index of 296 on April 15, 1952, an index of 315 on May 15, 1951, an index of 238 on May 15, 1950 and an index of 248 on May 15, 1949.

The grains commodity index of 199 in mid-May was three points lower than the same index a month earlier. Wheat and oats decreased in price while barley and rye prices were unchanged. Corn increased one cent per bushel.

The cotton and cottonseed index at 301 in mid-May was 9 points lower than a month earlier. Both cotton and cottonseed were down from a month earlier (See table at right)

The increase in hog prices from \$16.40 per hundred-weight on April 15 to \$19.00 on May 15 was primarily responsible for the increase of 8 points in the meat animals index during the month ended May 15. The average price of sheep and veal calves was unchanged while beef cattle and lambs decreased slightly in price (See table below).

The poultry index decreased 5 points during the month ended May 15 as the result of a decrease of 3.7 cents per pound in the price of chickens. The price of eggs advanced 1.5 cents per dozen during the same period.

The dairy products index decreased 3 points due to lower wholesale milk and butter prices.

The miscellaneous commodity index increased from 301 in mid-April to 303 in mid-May.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS MAY 15, 1952 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		APRIL 15 1952	MAY 15 1952	MAY 15 1952
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.74	1.75	1.70
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.27	2.21	2.13
OATS.....	BU.	1.04	1.01	.822
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.42	1.42	1.28
RYE.....	BU.	2.35	2.35	1.65
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.59	2.57	2.77
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.80	4.95	4.43
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.121	.12	.104
COTTON.....	LB.	.395	.383	.361
COTTONSEED.....	TON	70.00	69.00	60.80
WOOL.....	LB.	.65	.62	.51
HOGS.....	CWT.	16.40	19.00	20.00
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	24.20	23.50	27.90
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	31.00	31.00	31.20
SHEEP.....	CWT.	13.50	13.50	12.90
LAMBS.....	CWT.	28.50	28.00	26.30
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	187.00	184.00	256.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.261	.224	.243
EGGS.....	Doz.	.357	.372	.342
MILK, WHLSE. RETAIL.....	CWT.	5.75	5.55 a/	4.43
BUTTER.....	QT.	.208	.208	.204
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.56	.55	-
HAY, ALL BALLED.....	TON	32.70	32.70	23.40
POTATOES.....	BU.	2.30	2.30	2.64
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	3.75	3.90	4.33
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	2.50	2.40	2.84
LESPEDIZA SEED.....	CWT.	17.10	17.10	18.90
KOREAN.....	CWT.	16.00	16.00	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	18.00	18.00	-
COM. & TENN. 76. SERICEA.....	CWT.	19.00	20.00	-
		25.00	25.00	-

a/ Preliminary

N. C. HATCHERIES BUSY DURING APRIL

Chick Output 16 Percent Above Last Year-22 Percent Above Average

North Carolina commercial hatcheries produced 8,410,000 chicks during April 1952 compared with 7,267,000 chicks hatched during the same month last year and the 10-year average output of 6,888,000 chicks. Placements of chicks in the commercial broiler areas of the State continued at practically the same average daily rate as during March.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	APR. 15 1952	MAY 15 1952	MAY 15 1951	MAY 15 1950	MAY 15 1949
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS.....	296	291	315	238	248
COTTON & COTTONSEED.....	310	301	356	240	247
GRAINS.....	202	199	198	183	179
MEAT ANIMALS.....	414	422	449	341	360
POULTRY.....	197	192	240	177	233
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	244	241	238	216	222
TOBACCO.....	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS.....	301	303	244	248	260
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID-O/	102	101	112	94	101
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	290	293	305	247	256
PRICES PAID					
INTEREST & TAXES..	289	289	282	254	245
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID...100	100	101	108	97	104

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

PRICES RECEIVED UP 1 PERCENT FOR U. S. AS HOG PRICES RISE SHARPLY; PARITY RATIO 101

A sharp increase in the price received by U. S. farmers for hogs was primarily responsible for a 3 point (1 percent) increase in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers. The index, at 293 percent of the 1910-14 average on May 15, compares with 290 a month earlier and with 305 percent on May 15, 1951. Prices for cattle, calves, wool, corn, soybeans, most fruits, potatoes, and cabbage also increased. These increases were partially offset by lower prices for dairy products, poultry and eggs, cotton, hay, wheat, oats, barley, sheep, lambs, tomatoes, and onions.

The Parity Index (Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) remained unchanged during the month ended May 15. Living costs held steady during the month, whereas lower feed prices partially offset higher seed, farm supply, and machinery prices in the production component. At 289 percent of the 1910-14 average, the mid-May Parity Index was 2 percent higher than a year ago.

As a result of the increase in the Index of Prices Received, the Parity Ratio (ratio of the Index of Prices Received to the Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates) rose from 100 to 101.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	APR. 15 1952	MAY 15 1952	APR. 15 1952	MAY 15 1952	APR. 15 1952	MAY 15 1952
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.373	.361	.343	.343	109	105
WHEAT, BU.....	2.18	2.13	2.45	2.45	89	87
CORN, BU.....	1.68	1.70	1.78	1.78	94	96
OATS, BU.....	.871	.822	.944C/	.944C/	92	87
BARLEY, BU.....	1.31	1.28	1.45C/	1.45C/	-	-
RYE, BU.....	1.65	1.65	1.70	1.70	-	-
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	27.80	27.90	21.30	21.30	131	131
HOGS, CWT.....	16.40	20.00	21.60	21.60	76	93
LAMBS, CWT.....	26.40	26.30	23.40	23.40	113	112
CHICKENS, LB....	.26b/	.243	.309	.327	84b/	74
EGGS, Doz.....	.352	.342	.507C/	.507C/	80d/	78d/
MILK, WHLSE.CWT.	4.60b/	4.43d/	4.86	4.86	102d/	101d/

a/ Preliminary b/ Revised

C/ Transitional parity, 85 percent (90 percent during 1951) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED CLOTHING ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS 1951-52

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		DEC. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1952	DEC. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1952
* DOLLARS *							
SUITS, WOOL, 1 PAIR PANTS.....	EACH	41.50	40.50	40.50	45.40	44.90	44.80
EXTRA TROUSERS, WOOLEN.....	PAIR	11.00	9.80	10.50	11.70	11.20	11.30
TROUSERS, COTTON.....	PAIR	4.05	3.90	4.00	4.19	4.14	4.11
OVERALLS.....	PAIR	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.50	3.53	3.48
SHIRTS, COTTON, WORK.....	EACH	2.25	2.20	2.20	2.03	2.05	1.96
SOCKS, COTTON, WORK.....	PAIR	.40	.30	.30	.313	.307	.304
UNDERSHIRTS.....	EACH	.66	.65	.66	.685	.687	.662
SHORTS.....	PAIR	.80	.78	.79	.805	.811	.783
SHOES, WORK, MEN'S.....	PAIR	6.90	6.40	6.80	7.27	7.04	7.16
BOOTS, RUBBER, KNEE-LENGTH.....	PAIR	6.10	5.80	5.90	6.22	5.97	6.17
DRESSES, HOUSE PERCALE.....	EACH	3.00	3.00	2.95	3.15	3.20	3.07
RAYON PANTIES.....	PAIR	.65	.66	.62	.686	.719	.666
SHOES OR OXFORDS, WOMEN'S.....	PAIR	5.40	5.30	5.60	5.71	5.60	5.65
MUSLIN, UNBLEACHED 36 WIDE.....	YARD	.31	.34	.30	.344	.365	.329
PERCALE, 36 WIDE.....	YARD	.48	.52	.48	.483	.534	.471

POTATO AND SNAP BEAN HARVEST (Continued)

The condition of North Carolina's late spring snap bean crop varies from poor to excellent. Picking began during the week of May 19 in the southeast areas and the week of May 26 in the Currituck Area. Due to the prolonged planting season no pronounced peak is expected, however, movement will probably be heaviest during the first week of June.

By June 1, harvest of North Carolina's late spring cabbage crop was virtually complete. Very light movement will continue from the Weeksville-Currituck Area for the next two weeks. Yields realized were quite low in Currituck but generally fair to good in the other areas. Prices received by growers have been very favorable this year.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS MAY 15, 1952 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	APR. 15 1952	MAY 15 1952	APR. 15 1952	MAY 15 1952
DOLLARS				
MIXED DAIRY FEED UNDER 29% PROTEIN				
ALL.....	4.50	4.50	4.57	4.55
16% PROTEIN.....	4.25	4.30	4.43	4.41
18% PROTEIN.....	4.30	4.35	4.60	4.54
20% PROTEIN.....	4.70	4.75	4.72	4.70
29% - OVER.....	5.40	5.30	5.46	5.52
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
LINSEED MEAL.....	-	-	5.11	5.16
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	5.20	5.30	5.41	5.53
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	4.55	4.60	5.12	5.16
MEAT SCRAPS.....	6.50	6.60	6.43	6.33
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS				
BRAN.....	4.25	4.25	4.05	3.98
MIDDLEDGES.....	4.25	4.30	4.11	4.10
CORN MEAL.....	4.80	4.75	4.35	4.35
CORN GLUTEN.....	-	-	4.21	4.22
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	5.50	5.50	5.29	5.28
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.69

PRICES PAID BY FARMERS FOR CLOTHING SHOW DECLINE

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for specified clothing items (as shown in the accompanying table) on March 15, 1952 were generally lower than prices paid around December 15, 1951. The only item in this group showing an increase over the previous quarter was women's oxfords. Prices of all remaining items were either unchanged or lower than the averages for mid-December 1951. Compared with March 15, 1951, prices of most items were unchanged to slightly higher.

FEED PRICES INCREASE SLIGHTLY

North Carolina farmers paid slightly higher prices for most dairy feeds during the month ended May 15. Mixed dairy feeds containing from 16 to 20 percent protein increased five cents per hundredweight (See table at left).

The high protein feeds increased from 5 to 10 cents per hundredweight. In the grain by-products group, middlings was the only feed to increase in price.

Laying mash at \$5.50 and scratch grain at \$4.80 remained the same as mid-April.

FARMERS PAY HIGHER PRICES FOR FURNITURE

North Carolina farmers were paying slightly higher average prices for most furniture items on March 15, 1952 than on the same date a year earlier. For most items prices were also up some from averages for the previous quarter (December 15, 1951). Average prices paid by farmers for specified furniture items around March 15, 1952 for North Carolina and the United States are shown in the accompanying table.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR FURNITURE BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS, WITH COMPARISONS, 1951-1952

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		DEC. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1951	DEC. 15 1951	MAR. 15 1952	MAR. 15 1951
DOLLARS							
RUGS, AXMINSTER, 9' X 12'.....	EACH	78.00	78.00	76.00	89.40	88.70	86.40
RUGS, FELT BASE 9' X 12'.....	EACH	11.00	11.50	11.00	10.40	10.40	10.50
DINING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	235.00	245.00	225.00	234.00	241.00	231.00
LIVING-ROOM SUITES.....	EACH	150.00	160.00	155.00	185.00	186.00	183.00
BEDROOM SUITES.....	EACH	150.00	155.00	155.00	170.00	174.00	170.00
BEDSTEADS, METAL, DOUBLE.....	EACH	14.50	15.00	15.00	15.40	15.30	15.30
MATTRESSSES 54". FELTED COTTON.....	EACH	25.50	28.00	26.50	24.30	24.50	23.90
BED SPRINGS, DOUBLE, SAGLESS.....	EACH	18.00	19.00	18.00	18.60	18.90	18.10
KITCHEN CABINETS.....	EACH	56.00	56.00	56.00	58.50	59.50	58.50
STOVES, 6-HOLE KITCHEN RANGES....	EACH	100.00	-	92.00	117.00	117.00	117.00
WASHING MACHINES, ELECTRIC.....	EACH	140.00	-	135.00	135.00	137.00	132.00

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Bureau of Agricultural Economics
 S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
 and published by the
 NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Division of Statistics
 L.Y. Ballantine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
 Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
 Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge

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JUNE 5, 1952

FARM REPORT

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FARM OPERATOR FAMILY LEVEL-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR COUNTIES OF NORTH CAROLINA, 1930, 1940, 1945, AND 1950 (U. S. COUNTY AVERAGE FOR 1945 EQUALS 100)

COUNTY	1930	1940	1945	1950	COUNTY	1930	1940	1945	1950
STATE TOTAL.	37	45	60	80	JOHNSTON...	37	48	65	95
ALAMANCE...	60	81	89	100	JONES...	31	34	52	81
ALEXANDER...	41	41	59	85	LEE...	39	47	66	85
ALLEGHANY...	54	48	44	74	LENOIR...	38	59	68	89
ANSON...	31	46	61	80	LINCOLN...	56	66	75	89
ASHE...	23	24	29	60	MCDOWELL...	28	30	40	64
AVERY...	20	22	33	64	MACON...	17	19	25	54
BEAUFORT...	31	39	47	78	MADISON...	18	19	29	59
BERTIE...	35	40	56	79	MARTIN...	36	54	67	97
BLADEN...	26	34	47	68	MECKLENBURG...	58	75	91	103
BRUNSWICK...	23	25	36	1/	MITCHELL...	17	24	35	54
BUNCOMBE...	44	51	64	80	MONTGOMERY...	40	36	53	73
BURKE...	33	45	56	75	MOORE...	43	50	55	83
CABARRUS...	59	69	87	95	NASH...	36	49	64	89
CALDWELL...	38	52	64	81	NEW HANOVER...	87	99	100	1/
CAMDEN...	35	55	59	1/	NORTHAMPTON...	39	38	52	69
CARTERET...	32	39	65	1/	ONSLOW...	31	30	48	77
CASWELL...	39	45	61	81	ORANGE...	53	61	77	93
CATAWBA...	57	70	81	92	PAMLICO...	37	39	57	1/
CHATHAM...	46	40	64	82	PASQUOTANK...	48	61	75	1/
CHEROKEE...	15	15	21	47	PENDER...	30	38	46	63
CHOWAN...	41	51	62	1/	PERQUIMANS...	36	46	54	1/
CLAY...	24	20	24	48	PERSON...	35	40	56	76
CLEVELAND...	53	61	68	79	PITT...	31	54	68	87
COLUMBUS...	29	39	47	69	POLK...	27	35	49	68
CRAY...	33	41	61	71	RANDOLPH...	51	58	79	92
CUMBERLAND...	34	40	59	76	RICHMOND...	37	39	71	87
CURRITUCK...	49	48	72	1/	ROBESON...	28	37	55	75
DARE...	20	69	84	1/	ROCKINGHAM...	41	60	74	92
DAVIDSON...	72	90	109	113	ROWAN...	74	76	98	107
DAVIE...	49	64	79	93	RUTHERFORD...	43	56	71	76
DUPLIN...	32	36	52	76	SAMPSON...	35	43	60	80
DURHAM...	42	61	77	96	SCOTLAND...	32	37	50	61
EDGECOMBE...	40	58	79	97	STANLY...	52	61	80	87
FORSYTH...	64	78	100	110	STOKES...	42	46	66	84
FRANKLIN...	33	47	57	83	SURRY...	35	40	58	80
GASTON...	51	66	78	98	SWAIN...	13	9	27	1/
GATES...	38	39	60	71	TRANSYLVANIA...	30	37	49	71
GRAHAM...	8	13	21	1/	TYRRELL...	35	28	37	1/
GRANVILLE...	41	47	64	85	UNION...	42	60	72	88
GREENE...	36	66	78	97	VANCE...	38	45	76	85
GUILFORD...	65	81	97	111	WAKE...	44	63	78	106
HALIFAX...	31	46	58	73	WARREN...	31	34	47	62
HARNETT...	38	49	62	88	WASHINGTON...	30	27	38	77
HAYWOOD...	24	31	54	81	WATAUGA...	20	33	45	62
HENDERSON...	39	48	65	78	WAYNE...	37	49	69	97
HERTFORD...	36	37	58	79	WILKES...	32	37	48	67
HORN...	29	37	56	66	WILSON...	37	57	77	99
HYDE...	28	25	40	1/	YADKIN...	47	54	78	88
IREDELL...	58	62	87	97	YANCEY...	16	16	22	58
JACKSON...	16	19	27	55					

1/ Index not computed separately for this county in 1950; see combinations of counties below.

BRUNSWICK)	32	36	54	69	CHOWAN }				
NEW HANOVER)					PERQUIMANS)	38	49	58	84
CAMDEN)					DARE)				
CURRITUCK)					HYDE)				
PASQUOTANK)	45	54	70	95	TYRRELL)	30	28	40	73
CARTERET)					GRAHAM)				
PAMLICO)	35	39	62	85	SWAIN)	12	11	25	43

FARM-OPERATOR FAMILY LEVEL-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR COUNTIES OF NORTH CAROLINA 1930, 1940, 1945, AND 1950 1/

The farm level-of-living indexes in the accompanying table only measure relative changes as between different counties or sections of the country and different periods of time. They do not purport to measure relative standards of living as between farm and nonfarm families.

County data from the last Census of Agriculture have been used to construct indexes for 1950, and similar data were used from an earlier census to compute indexes for 1930 that have not previously been published.

Indexes presented in this bulletin are based on four items that were available for farm-operator families for each county in the United States for 4 years in the 20 years covered. They do not cover all the goods, services, and other satisfactions that make up the level of living of families.

The items on which these farm-operator family level-of-living indexes are based are the following: (1) Percentage of farms with electricity; (2) percentage of farms with telephones; (3) percentage of farms with automobiles; and (4) average value of products sold or traded in the year preceding the census (adjusted for changes in purchasing power of the farmer's dollar).

1/ Excerpt from "Farm-Operator Family Level-of-Living Indexes for Counties of the United States, 1930, 1940, 1945, and 1950." Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C. May 1952.

The 344.2 million layers on U. S. farms in April were up 2 percent from year ago, but down 4 percent from average